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Sri M. K. SOMASUNDARAM : திருநெல்வேலி, கன்யாகுமரி ஜில்லாக்களில் ஒரு 'ஸோஷல் ஆர்கனைஸேஷன் ஆபீசர்' போட்டு, ஆதிவாசிகளின் முன்னேற்றத்திற்கு ஒரு திட்டம் வகுக்க முடியுமா ?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : ஆதிவாசிகளை முன்னுக்குக் கொண்டுவருவதற்கு தனித் திட்டங்கள் போடப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன. அந்தத் திட்டங்கள் இப்பொழுது நிறைவேற்றப்பட்டும் வருகின்றன.

Text-Books

2240-J *Q*.—Sri T. T. DANIEL : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total cost of the books which a student studying in the 8th, 9th and 10th Standards, respectively; and

(*b*) whether there is any proposal to reduce (i) the cost of such books; and (ii) the number of books to be prescribed for such of those Standards?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) & (*b*) : Under the existing arrangements, text-books for detailed and non-detailed study in the languages for Standard X are prescribed by the department. The other text-books for Standard X and all text-books for Standards VIII and IX are selected by the managements of high schools from the list of books approved by the Text-Book Committee. The number of books prescribed by the authorities will be limited to the minimum required for each subject, according to the syllabus. As the books prescribed may vary from institution to institution, it is not possible to estimate the cost of a set of books required to be purchased by a student. There is no proposal to reduce either the cost or the number of books to be prescribed for these Standards.

Sri T. T. DANIEL : While appreciating the steps that have been taken by our Government in the matter of giving educational concessions to poor students, in view of the fact that a number of poor students have to purchase many books which are really very costly, will the Government think of finding out some scheme or granting some concession, by which the poor students may be able to purchase their text-books which will be very useful for them for studying and passing the examination?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : I am sure there will be many voluntary and charitable organizations to help the poor students. For Harijan students, the Harijan Welfare Department provides books free of cost. So various steps have already been taken. I do agree that if it is possible, the Government should be able to provide all these facilities free of cost but unfortunately we have not reached that stage.

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SRI K. ANBAZHAGAN: தலைவர் அவர்களே, ஏழை மாணவர்கள் புதிய புத்தகங்களை விலைக்கு வாங்கவேண்டியிருப்பதால், அதிக செலவாகிற காரணத்தினால், பெரும்பகுதி அவர்களுடைய செலவைக் குறைப்பதற்கு வசதியாக பள்ளிக்கூடங்களில் வைக்கப் படுகிற பாட புத்தகங்கள் மூன்று ஆண்டுகள் ஒரு முறைக்கு முன்னால் மாற்றப்படக்கூடாது, ஒரே வகையான புத்தகங்கள் மூன்று ஆண்டுகளுக்கு நீடிக்கவேண்டும் என்று வற்புறுத்துவதற்கு அரசாங்கம் முனவருமா ?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: எனக்கு ஞாபகம் இருக்கும் வரையில், இப்பொழுது இருக்கக்கூடிய விதி அதுதான். மூனறு வருடங்களுக்கு முன்னால் புத்தகத்தை மாற்றக்கூடாது என்பதுதான் விதி.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM: On the other hand is it not a fact that according to the old S.S.L.C. standard, students were required to study more subjects like Elementary Science, Geography, History and Civics which are all now clubbed together in one subject known as 'Social Studies' and now they are expected to buy only one book to cover the entire curricula which was not the case before?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Again we have reverted to the study of Geography and History separately instead of one subject, Social Studies. Apart from that, the number of books has considerably increased because various other new subjects have to be taught and the cost also has gone up. While I appreciate the difficulties which the poor students have to confront with, still we do not have a comprehensive scheme to give relief to them. But I hope that in course of time, this relief will also be made available to the poor students.

SRI T. T. DANIEL: I understand that the price is fixed only by the editor and publisher. So, will the Government go into the matter and fix a reasonable price for each book so that unreasonable price could not be fixed by the editor and publisher. Also, will the Government have at least one standard book for all the schools in each district?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: It will be very difficult to restrict it to only one standard book for the entire district. But as hon Members may be aware, we are making a beginning with regard to the primary schools so that the Government may prepare the text-books. By Government, I do not mean Ministers writing them but experts in the line writing text-books and the Government publishing them with the help of experienced men. Perhaps that scheme may be extended to the higher classes also.

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIYAR: May I know whether it will be possible to reduce the number of books especially when many schools are under-staffed and students have to depend only on these books?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I have not been given any idea that the number of books can possibly be reduced.

SRI A. GOVINDASAMY : தனியார் புத்தகங்களை அச்சடித்து விற்கிற நேரத்தில் அதிக விலைக்கு விற்கப்படுகிற நிலைமை ஏற்படுகிறது. அதைத் தவிர்ப்பதற்கு குறைந்த விலையிலே பேபரை சர்க்காரே சப்ளை செய்வதற்கு முயற்சிக்குமா ?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : குறைந்த விலைக்கு சர்க்காரே பேபரை சப்ளை செய்யவேண்டுமென்று சொன்னால், பிறகு அது சரியாக உபயோகப்படுத்தப்படுகிறதா என்பதைப் பார்க்க வேண்டும், 'ப்ளாக் மார்கெட்டில்' விற்கப்படுகிறதா என்பதற்கு கண்காணிப்பு வேண்டும். சர்க்காரே எடுத்து புத்தகத்தை பிரசுரிக்கலாம் என்றால், அது வேறு விஷயம். இப்பொழுது அந்த அனுபவத்தை கீழே உள்ள வகுப்புகளில் ஆரம்பித்திருக்கிறோம். அந்த அனுபவத்தை வைத்துக்கொண்டு, மேல் வகுப்புகளுக்கு பின்னாலே புத்தகங்கள் தயாரிப்பது பற்றி பரிசீலனை செய்யலாம்.

SRI K. ANBAZHAGAN : தலைவர் அவர்களே, பெண்கள் சுமந்து செல்லுகின்ற புத்தகங்கள் அதிகமாக இருப்பதால், ஆண்கள் பள்ளிகளைவிட பெண்கள் பள்ளிகளுக்கு புத்தகங்கள் ஏராளமாக இருக்கின்றனவா ? இதுபற்றி ஏதேனும் பரிசீலனை செய்யப்பட்டதா ?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : பெண்கள் இத்தனை புத்தகங்கள் படிக்கிறார்கள் என்று மற்றவர்கள் கண்களுக்கு தெரிய வேண்டும் என்பதற்காக, இதுமாதிரி சுமந்து செல்லுகிறார்களோ என்னவோ. இருக்கிற புத்தகங்கள் எல்லாவற்றையும் எடுத்துக்கொண்டு போனால்தான் அவ்வளவு புத்தகங்கள் இருக்க முடியும். அந்த நாளைக்கு வகுப்புக்குத் தகுந்தபடி வேண்டிய புத்தகங்களை மட்டும் எடுத்துக்கொண்டு போனால் அவ்வளவு இருக்க முடியாது. அவர்கள் எவ்வளவு சுமக்க முடியும், எந்த புத்தகங்கள் கொண்டு போகவேண்டும் என்பதை பெண்களுக்கே விட்டுவிடலாம் என்று நினைக்கிறேன்.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Even with the so-called large number of books that have to be studied by the students, the standard of education at the S.S.L.C. level is not as encouraging as it ought to be. So would the Government desist from any temptation of reducing the number of books or reducing the workload or subject-load which a student has got to undertake to qualify himself for admission to the Pre-University class?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : There is no proposal to reduce the number of books or subject-load or lesson-load. Therefore that question does not arise at all.

SRI T. T. DANIEL : May I know whether the editor is fixing the price or the printer or publisher himself fixes the price or whether reasonable price is fixed after consultation with Government?

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Government do not come into the picture. It is the publisher who fixes the price. Because there are many competitors in the field, it is hoped that a reasonable price would be fixed. Otherwise people may not go in for these books.

SRI T. S. RAMASWAMI : May I know whether there was a conference of Education Ministers to consider the question of publication of text-books for school children? If so, what was the decision taken?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : For primary classes, Yes. The conclusion reached was that State Governments should publish text-books for primary classes.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the fear expressed in certain quarters that it might lead to regimentation and doctrinnaire teaching, if the Government were to publish text-books?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I have heard about certain attitude like that. It is not with reference to this but with reference to any government activity. As a matter of fact such parties would not like any government at all, particularly when it is not their party Government.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Questions are over.

[Note : An asterisk * at the Commencement of a speech, idicates revision by the Member.]

II.—ANNOUN EMENTS.

(1) INFORMATION RE. QUESTIONS

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The other day the hon. Member Sri K. Vinayakam and the hon. Member Sri T. S. Ramaswami wanted some information regarding questions. For the tenth session, we received 5,179 questions. We have admitted 2797 as starred questions and 691 as unstarred questions. The number of questions answered is, starred 2,337 and unstarred 580. The number of questions disallowed is 768 and the number of questions withdrawn is 797. The number of questions referred back to members and replies not received is 118. Four hundred and twenty-nine questions are pending with Government. This is the information.

If any hon. Members want any more particulars, I request them to come to my Chamber and get the particulars and not put any question to the Chair now.

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIYAR : Even with regard to questions admitted, I find that for many questions answers have not been received because of absence of the concerned Ministers. I think some arrangement might be made by which if a Minister's absence from the House is unavoidable, another Minister who is present in the House might be permitted to answer the question. We have got only four days more.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have no objection to it if the Hon. Leader of the House agrees.